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# **Bates Well** Arrastra

### Identification:

Preferred Structure Name: Bates Well Arrastra

HS01H Structure Number:

Other Structure Name(s):

Other Structure Name(s)

No records.

Park: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Historic District:

Historic District

Bates Well Ranch

Structure State: Arizona Pima Structure County:

Intermountain Region: Cluster: Southwest

Administrative Unit: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

LCS ID: 056707

## Historical Significance:

National Register Status: Entered - Documented

National Register Date: 05/20/1994

National Historic Landmark?: No

Significance Level: State

Short Significance Description: The Bates Well Arrastra, Organ Pipe NM, is one of the contributing

> structures to the Bates Well Ranch, entered on the NR, at the state level, under Criterion A, Sonoran Desert cattle raising & B, assoc'n w/Robert L.

Gray, Sr.. Period of significance for the ranch, 1913-1942.

Long Significance Description: The Bates Well Arrastra, Organ Pipe NM, is one of 14 contributing structures and buildings of the Bates Well Ranch, entered on the National Register, at the state level, under Criteria A, Sonoran Desert cattle raising; and B, cattle-ranching property associated with Robert Louis Gray, Sr. The ranch's period of significance is 1913-1942.

The ranch was one of the fifteen ranches and line camps in the Gray family partnership cattle business which developed the ranching potential of the Sonoran desert country north of the border and dominated the lands of Organ Pipe National Monument for nearly 60 years.

The Arrastra probably dates to 1909 or before. The term arrastra comes from the Spanish and is defined as "a primitive grinding mill for crushing ore; powered by mule, oxen or water power." A circle of flat-topped stones set flush with the ground, a center metal axle is still in place but there are no grinding wheels or drag stones. It is the only extant arrastra in the park. It would not have been usable once the bunkhouse was constructed immediately adjacent to it, indicative of the changing economy of the area.

The Bates Well property represents a very complete and intact example of the frontier ranching pattern in Arizona typical of the Sonoran Desert during the first third of the twentieth century. It was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on May 20, 1994.

#### Construction Period:

Construction Period:

Historic

Chronology:

		Begin				
Physical	Begin	Year	End	End Year	Designer	
Event	Year	AD/BC	Year	AD/BC	Designer Occupation	
1. Built	1909	AD	1913	AD		

#### **Function and Use:**

Primary Historic Function: Industrial/Processing/Extraction

Primary Current Use: Ruin Structure Contains Museum No

Collections?:

Other Functions or Uses:

Other Function(s) or Use(s) Historic or Current No records.

## Physical Description:

Structure Type: Ruin Square Feet: 38 Material(s):

	Structural Component(s)	Material(s)
1.	Superstructure	Fieldstone
2.	Superstructure	Metal

Short Physical Description:

Long Physical Description:

Once used for grinding ore, arrastra has iron pipe 3'9" high, squared on lower section, at center of circle of flat stones, 7-9' diameter. Several stones missing. Grinding stone no longer extant. Located on E side of bunkhouse.

The term arrastra comes from the Spanish and is defined as "a primitive grinding mill for crushing ore; powered by mule, oxen or water power." A 7'-9" diameter circle of flat-topped stones set flush with the ground, with a center metal axle, 3'-9" high, squared on lower section, is still in place but there are no grinding wheels or drag stones. Several stones are missing. It is the only extant arrastra in the park. It would not have been usable once the bunkhouse was placed immediately adjacent to it, indicative of the changing economy of the area.